(b) whether Karnataka Government has sent any proposal seeking financial assistance to farmers for replanting;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action, if any, taken by Government to sanction compensation to farmers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Government of Karnataka has informed that as per preliminary estimates, the total number of dried palms in Karnataka due to drought is 11.44 lakhs.

(b) and (c) Government of Karnataka has submitted a memorandum seeking central assistance of Rs. 1881.55 crores and 9.90 lakh tonnes of rice for drought declared this year. The financial requirements of Rs. 1881.55 crores *inter-alia* includes Rs. 192.50 crores for damaged horticulture crops including coconut. A compensation of Rs. 25,000 per hectare for estimated coconut area of 7626 hectare has been sought.

(d) The memorandum of Government of Karnataka is under consideration.

Oil seeds production

2090. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of oil seeds has declined in the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantum of oil seeds produced in Karnataka during the year three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of oilseeds in the year 2002-2003 is estimated at 157.5 lakh

tonnes as against the target of 270.0 lakh tonnes. The fall in production of oilseeds is due to severe drought prevailing in major oilseeds growing states in the country.

(c) The quantum of oilseeds produced in Karnataka during the last 3 years is as under:

Year	Production (in 000 tonnes)
1999-2000	1192.5
2000-2001	1538.2
2001-2002	1064.1

Stepping up of Agricultural Loans

2091. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a opinion that agriculture loans must be stepped up where liberalisation has opened up new opportunities;

(b) if so, whether Ministry has taken up the issue with banks to provide agricultural loans to the farmers to make it a global competion;

(c) whether the reluctance of commercial banks to offer credit to agricultural sector at lower rates has forced Government to consider a proposal for a separate PLR for the sector; and

(d) if so, what are the other decision Government propose to take to provide funds for agricultural sector to improve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The banks have been asked from time to time to increase the flow of institutional finance to the farmers.

(c) and (d) To provide credit at reasonable and competitive rates of interest to the agriculture sector. Government of India in its Budget proposals for 2003-04 announced at interest rate band of 2 percent